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5th meeting
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at 9.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RAZALI
(President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FIFTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Netherlands (A/51/238)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider a request by the Netherlands for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons", contained in document A/51/238. A representative of the Netherlands had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Berteling (Netherlands) took a place at the Committee table.

3. Mr. BERTELING (Netherlands) said that his delegation was speaking at the request of all the countries which were currently meeting in The Hague at the first Conference of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which had been opened on 6 May 1997 in the presence of the Secretary-General. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction had entered into force on 29 April 1997, and the establishment of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) had been the organizational consequence. The Preparatory Commission for OPCW considered it essential for the General Assembly to adopt a resolution requesting the Secretary-General to prepare an agreement to regulate the relationship between the United Nations and OPCW to be applied provisionally upon signature, pending the completion of the procedures necessary for its entry into force.

4. Even more urgently, OPCW needed to start working immediately, and an important part of its work was inspections in OPCW member States; the use of United Nations laissez-passer was of vital importance for OPCW inspectors in the discharge of their duties in the territories of some member States.

5. Following acceptance of the request for the inclusion of an additional item, his delegation, together with a number of other delegations, would submit a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly.

6. Mr. MUNTASSER (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation supported the inclusion of the additional item. However, referring to paragraph 6 of the explanatory memorandum (A/51/238), he asked how the Secretary-General would be able to act on the basis of a recommendation contained in an explanatory memorandum.

7. Mr. BERTELING (Netherlands) said that the intention was that the Secretary-General would be invited to enter into negotiations with OPCW with a view to concluding an agreement after the General Assembly adopted a resolution to that

effect. The agreement would then be applied provisionally until the General Assembly and the Conference of OPCW had ratified the process.

8. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda.

9. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

The meeting rose at 9.45 a.m.